THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 6th March 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Declaration of beaten rice and puffed rice as non-rationed articles.

* 34 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether beaten rice and puffed rice were declared to be non-rationed articles by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) on 13th May 1946 (L. Disposal No. 1946-K-1/46, dated 13th May 1946);

(*b*) whether the police of Bellary arrested and detained one Sathrasala Bhadrayya of Rayadrug from 9 to 10-30 a.m. for having brought three bags of puffed rice from Rayadrug to Bellary;

(*c*) whether he was subsequently kept under restraint till 9 p.m. in the night even though the proceedings of the Board were shown to the police;

(*d*) what action the Government have taken in respect of the aforesaid arrest; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to take any deterrent action in order to prevent such arrests in future?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Food) :—" (*a*) *to* (*c*) It is true that beaten and puffed rice were not declared as rationed articles. But in Board's Proceedings No. 626, dated 15th May 1946, their transport from one village to another in excess of one Imperial maund except under a permit has been prohibited. Sri Sathrasala Bhadrayya of Rayadrug was arrested at 10-15 a.m. on 4th January 1948 for having transported 3 maunds and 29 seers of puffed rice from Rayadrug to Bellary contravening the notification of the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) issued with the proceedings mentioned above. He was enlarged on bail within 15 minutes of his arrest and not kept under restraint till 9 p.m. on that day as alleged.

" (*d*) & (*e*) As the action of the Police is not illegal, no action against the Police is considered necessary. The Collector of Bellary has suspended the operation of the notification prohibiting the inter-village movement of all foodgrains including puffed and beaten rice by executive orders subsequent to the incident, on 7th January 1948 in view of the abolition of rural

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rationing and he has instructed the District Superintendent of Police to drop the prosecution proceedings instituted against Sri Bhadrayya."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Board of Revenue was competent to issue these proceedings issued ? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Yes, Sir. The Director of Civil Supplies has been given power to take action whenever he finds it is necessary to do so."

Pre-audit in local bodies.

* 35 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the expenditure incurred by the Government in the Local Fund audit, and the amount recovered from local bodies in 1946–47 ; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to appoint staff in local bodies for pre-audit purposes and recover the cost from the local bodies?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) The total expenditure incurred by the Government on the Local Fund Audit Department during 1946–7 was Rs. 4,84,483. The department audits the accounts both of local bodies and of other miscellaneous institutions. No fees are charged to the local bodies on this account except in regard to audit of the accounts of their Endowments and Electric Licence Schemes. Fees are charged for the audit of the accounts of the other miscellaneous institutions. The total amount of audit fees recovered in 1946–7 and credited to the Government was Rs. 1,10,812.

" (*b*) No."

Retrenchment due to decontrol of rationed articles.

* 36 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in view of the fact that controls on rice, cloths and several articles have recently been removed, the Government have retrenched the respective departments which were in charge of these controls ; and

(*b*) whether the Government can give an approximate saving in expenditure by the retrenchment of the unwanted departments?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) *Food Department.*—(i) Controls over pulses, sugar, potatoes, etc., have recently been lifted. But rice is still a controlled commodity in this Province though the control is being relaxed progressively.